

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01 IO-12 /120 W

----- 116472

P R 051140 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9848

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNATO 2906

USEC BRUSSELS

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MOSCOW FOR DR. KISSINGER

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, US

SUBJECT: STATE OF WORLD MESSAGE AND REYKJAVIK SUMMIT: FRENCH PRESS
COMMENT

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY MESSAGE AND ANNOUNCEMENT
OF SUMMIT IN REYKJAVIK WERE OFTEN LINKED IN FRENCH PRESS COMMENT
MAY 4 AND 5. COMMENTATORS AGREED THAT MOST NOTEWORTHY ELEMENT OF
STATE OF WORLD TEXT IS ITS "WARNING" TO EUROPE THAT-- AS FIGARO PUT
IT-- EUROPE MUST GIVE UP 'ECONOMIC REGIONALISM' IF IT WISHES CON-
TINUE TO BENEFIT FROM AMERICAN MILITARY PROTECTION. IN SOME
COMMENTARIES, THIS IDEA WAS LABELED "BLACKMAIL." FOR REYKJAVIK,
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MOST OBSERVERS PLACE SAME IDEA--"LINK" THEY SEE ESTABLISHED
IN KISSINGER MESSAGE BETWEEN SECURITY AND TRADE-- HIGH ON SUMMIT
AGENDA, AND FEEL NIXON MESSAGE COULD SERVE AS BASIS OF DISCUSSION.
TWO COMMENTATORS MENTIONED GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN PRESI-

DENTS AS POSITIVE FACTOR HELPING TO "SMOOTH ROUGH EDGES". END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS OBSERVERS WERE ALL STRUCK BY WHAT THEY SEE AS WARNING TO EUROPEANS IN PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE WORLD MESSAGE THAT IF THEY WISH CONTINUED U. S. MILITARY PROTECTION, THEY MUST RENOUNCE "ECONOMIC REGIONALISM." PUTTING ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS IN "A POLITICAL AND NOT PURELY TECHNICAL CONTEXT", AS ONE WRITER SAID, ESTABLISHES OUTRIGHT LINK-- IN VIEW OF COMMENTATORS HERE-- BETWEEN NEXT FALL'S COMMERCIAL AND MONETARY NEGOTIATIONS AND POLITICAL/ MILITARY RELATIONS. "THE WARNING IS NOT NEW," SAID LES ECHOS, "BUT IT IS THE FIRST TIME NIXON HIMSELF SO BLUSTERINGLY LINKS" TRADE AND MILITARY QUESTIONS. "THE THREAT IS PERFECTLY CLEAR", THE FINANCIAL DAILY WENT ON, "YET, IF U. S. POWER AND THE DISUNITY OF ITS PARTNERS GIVES WASHINGTON A POSITION OF STRENGTH IN THE COMING CONFRONTATION, THE TARNISHED IMAGE OF ITS PRESIDENT DEPRIVES IT OF A MAJOR TRUMP". READING THE KISSINGER APRIL 23 TEXT IN LIGHT OF STATE OF THE WORLD MESSAGE, COMBAT SAID THE "ATLANTIC CHARTER PROPOSED BY KISSINGER AND SOMEWHAT DISCARDED BY BRANDT, THUS COMES OUT CLEARLY AS WHAT IT IS-- BLACKMAIL, VULGAR, MERCANTILE BLACKMAIL. PRESIDENT ASSERTS-- SHOULD WE BELIEVE HIM?-- THAT U. S. WILL NEVER COMPROMISE ON SECURITY OF EUROPE... IF SUCH IS THE CASE, IT IS BECAUSE THIS IS IN WELL- UNDERSTOOD INTEREST OF U. S. BUT THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF 200 MILLION EUROPEANS.... IF HE INTENDS TO REFER TO PRINCIPLE OF ATLANTIC UNITY, PRESIDENT NIXON SHOULD ADMIT WHAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY REALIZED-- THAT TWO POLES OF 'ATLANTIC WORLD' MUST BE EQUAL". COMBAT CONCLUDED THAT ONLY "SATISFACTORY THING" IN EUROPEAN PART OF MESSAGE WAS CALL FOR JOINT EXAMINATION OF ENERGY PROBLEMS.

3. FIGARO'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT ASKED QUESTION SIMILAR TO COMBAT'S, IN WONDERING IF PRESIDENT NIXON "WAS REALLY SINCERE WHEN HE ASSURED BRANDT HE DOES NOT INTEND BLACKMAIL HIS EUROPEAN ALLIES. TEXT OF STATE OF THE WORLD MESSAGE, ALAS, GIVES US REASON TO DOUBT THIS", HE SAID. FOR HIM, THE MESSAGE'S "WARNING" IS "UNEQUIVOCAL": EUROPEANS ENJOY U. S. MILITARY PROTECTION AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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WORLD PEACE IS GUARANTEED BY STRENGTH AND PROSPERITY OF U. S. IN EUROPE, ALLIES HAVE TO COMPREHEND THAT THEY MUST CONTRIBUTE, EVEN AT COST OF SACRIFICES, TO U. S. PROSPERITY WHICH SUPPORTS THE PROTECTION THEY NEED. "IN OTHER WORDS," HE SAID, "EUROPEANS MUST ENDORSE AMERICAN CONCEPT OF AN OPEN INTERNATIONAL MARKET". LE MONDE AGREED, POINTING TO "GROWING AVERSION" OF U. S. FOR "ANY KIND OF ECONOMIC REGIONALISM LIKELY TO PREJUDICE THE FREE- TRADING WORLD IT CONTINUES TO SUPPORT DESPITE ITS OWN INFIDELITY TO THAT CONCEPT IN THE NAME OF HIGHER U. S. INTEREST". EUROPE IS ONCE AGAIN THE TARGET, SAID LE MONDE--"EUROPE AND ITS NOXIOUS PROTECTIONISM THAT IT MUST CORRECT IF-- AND THIS TIME NIXON SAYS IT BLUNTLY-- EUROPE WANTS TO CONTINUE BENEFITING FROM AMERICAN MILITARY SECURITY. EUROPE CAN RESPOND THAT IT IS NOT UP TO

EUROPE TO BE WIPED OUT SO AMERICAN COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS CAN REGAIN COMPETITIVENESS, AND THAT MULTINATIONAL FIRMS PERHAPS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE AMERICAN DEFICIT".

4. TO COMMENTATORS ASSESSING THE AGENDA OF THE REYKJAVIK SUMMIT, THE RELATIONSHIP THEY SEE ESTABLISHED BY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES BETWEEN TRADE AND SECURITY MATTERS WILL BE HIGH ON THE LIST. STATEMENTS IN PRESIDENT'S TEXT, FOR GAULLIST LA NATION, ALLOW "IMPORTANT DIVERGENCES TO APPEAR, WHETHER IT IS THE LINK ESTABLISHED BY WHITE HOUSE BETWEEN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND U. S. MILITARY POSITION IN EUROPE, OR 'REGIONALIST' ROLE IN WHICH U. S. INTENDS TO CONFINE EUROPE". IN DISCUSSIONS ON SUCH QUESTIONS, COMMENTATORS FEEL BOTH KISSINGER AND NIXON MESSAGES CAN SERVE AS BASIS. FOR LES ECHOS, CENTRAL QUESTION IS HOW FAR U. S. WANTS EUROPEAN INTEGRATION TO GO, SINCE "EXAGGERATED DEMANDS FROM WASHINGTON THREATEN TO SHATTER THE GLASS OF EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION. BUT NOTHING SEEMS TO INDICATE WASHINGTON WANTS TO DO THAT. AMERICANS MUST DECIDE IF THEIR SECURITY IS BETTER ASSURED BY CONSOLIDATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH MOSCOW OR THROUGH ENCOURAGING CONSTRUCTION OF A REAL POLITICAL EUROPE". POMPIDOU, PAPER SAID, WILL THUS FIRST OF ALL SEE WHAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S INTENTIONS ARE. MEANWHILE, HE CAN TAKE SATISFACTION THAT FRENCH POSITIONS ARE GAINING GROUND WITHIN EUROPE. AFTER ALL, ASKED LES ECHOS, DIDN'T BRANDT USE "GAULLIST ACCENTS" IN WASHINGTON IN DISCUSSING THE "EUROPEAN EUROPE"? IN MATTERS OF EUROPE, SAID LA NATION, FRANCE IS IN THE "FIRST LINE", GIVEN ITS DEEP CONVICTIONS FAVORING EUROPEAN EUROPE, AND FACT THAT FRANCE "OFTEN SAYS ALOUD WHAT OTHERS ONLY THINK". FROM NEW YORK,
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EUROPE ONE RADIO CORRESPONDENT TELLIER OBSERVED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON, WHO HAS ALREADY PUT HIS VIEWS TO HEATH AND BRANDT, WILL DO SO "WITH ALL THE MORE VIGOR IN ICELAND BECAUSE, FOR WASHINGTON, FRANCE IS THE LEAST DOCILE" OF THE EUROPEAN PARTNERS.

5. OTHER COMMENT CARRIED SAME THEME-- THAT OF EUROPEAN ALLIES, POMPIDOU WILL PROVE TO BE "MOST DIFFICULT" FOR PRESIDENT. IN THIS REGARD, COMBAT REMARKED THAT POMPIDOU IS ONLY CHIEF OF STATE WHOM AMERICAN PRESIDENT TRAVELED TO MEET THIS SPRING-- A GOOD REASON FOR PRIDE". COMBAT AND LA NATION ALSO NOTED GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS WHICH, IN LATTER PAPER'S VIEW, "WILL GREATLY HELP TO SMOOTH ROUGH EDGES WHERE THEY ARE ESPECIALLY SHARP, ESPECIALLY ON EUROPE." DESPITE NOTABLE "DIVERGENCES" WHICH LA NATION LISTED BETWEEN FRENCH AND U. S. POSITIONS, GAULLIST ORGAN UNDERLINED THAT REYKJAVIK MEETING WILL FIND POMPIDOU "VERY OPEN" TO IDEAS EXPRESSED IN KISSINGER SPEECH.
IRWIN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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TAGS: PFOR, FR, US
To: STATE INFO MOSCOW
BONN
LONDON
ROME
BRUSSELS
LUXEMBOURG
THE HAGUE

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